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OPERATION:




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OPERATION: *BLIND SIDE*



Operation Blind Side is a traffic safety program aimed at reducing the number and severity of rural intersection crashes. The primary goal is to save lives and prevent injuries by increasing public education and awareness of the inherent dangers of intersections, particularly where the approaching view is obstructed by crops or vegetation. Operation Blind Side was originally developed by the Illinois State Police District Ten and the Coles County Sheriff's Department.

A Community Partnership

Operation Blind Side is a collaboration between the Illinois State Police District Ten, your County Sheriff's Department and various community groups, including Farm Bureau, Illinois Corn Growers' Association, Country Companies Insurance, University of Illinois Cooperative Extension Service, Future Farmers of America, 4-H, and other community service organizations. Also assisting are area media organizations, your county highway engineer and your township road commissioners.

Adopt A Corner

Under Operation Blind Side guidelines, your local Farm Bureau will serve as liaison between area farmers and agricultural youth organizations, such as 4-H and Future Farmers of America. Those farmers who have a specific crop corner that they believe may obstruct the view at an intersection, may request that Farm Bureau notify these volunteer groups. The volunteers will then cut those selected corners of crops or vegetation, according to the farmers' criteria. Other service oriented groups may be enlisted also.



Don't be blind sided at a rural intersection!

377 rural intersection crashes in
District 10*, in 1997
10 fatality crashes
144 personal injury crashes
223 property damage crashes
256 persons injured
11 killed

*These figures do not include Champaign County

"Knee high, by the Fourth of July" means more than healthy corn

Motorists face additional dangers, during the summer growing season. Crops and other vegetation may reduce visibility and result in a "blind" intersection. Be alert at any intersection!

You may be right....dead right!

Common sense driving techniques will prevent accidents at intersections, not only in the summer season, but throughout the year. Be alert for hazards and expect the unexpected. Don't assume that because you have the right of way, that cross traffic will stop. Intersection accidents occur every day, because someone fails to stop or yield. You may be right, because you have the right of way, but if you don't look before entering an intersection, you may dead right.



Drive Defensively



Obey the posted speed limit



Reduce your speed when poor road conditions exist, or when approaching any potential hazard



Reduce your speed when approaching any intersection



Obey Stop and Yield signs



If required, come to a complete stop



Look left, right and left again, before entering any intersection



Don't assume that cross traffic will stop, just because you have the right of way

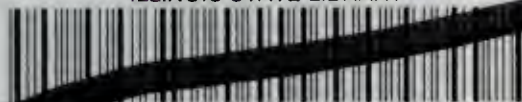
The time you take may save your life, or that of a loved one.

Remember, summer time is fun time, but safety is no accident!

Commander David H. Morgan
Illinois State Police District Ten
I-57 at Exit 220
P.O. Box 110
Pesotum, IL 61863
Emergency: (217) 265-0110
Non-Emergency: (217) 265-0050
Investigations: (217) 333-1211



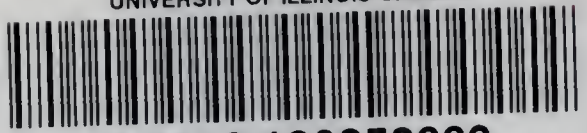
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